Kashmir but there is a sunset clause in respect of the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

(b) Presently, the Government does not have any plan to extend the time-frame of these concessions.

Pension related grievances

1277. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the process of implementation of the recommendations of Sixth Pay Commission has generated heart burning among many pensioners, for *e.g.* in the grade of Joint Secretary who are drawing less pension than their juniors who retired as Directors about 5 to 10 years back;

(b) whether the anomalous situation is due to miscalculation by banks or any other reasons;

(c) whether Government proposes to look into the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Pensioners who retired in the grade of Joint Secretary prior to 1.1.2006 and were drawing higher pre-revised pension than a pre-1.1.2006 pensioner who retired as Director, continue to draw higher pension after Sixth Pay Commission. Hence, no anomalous situation has arisen in this case.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

Detection of fake Indian currency notes

1278. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of fake Indian currency notes have been detected in various parts of our country during the last six months;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how many persons have so far been arrested in these cases;

(c) whether it is also a fact that counterfeit currency notes are printed in Lahore and Karachi from where it is sent to Nepal and Dubai and then to India;

(d) if so, whether the matter was taken up with the Government of Pakistan; and

(e) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the details of quantum of fake currency detected and total persons arrested till September, 2009 is as follows:

Year	Total (no. of pieces detected)	Value	Total persons arrested
2009 (upto 30.9.2009)	2,47,995	Rs.9,07,64,200/-	868

(c) to (e) Available inputs indicate that high quality Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICNs) are printed in a neighbouring country and pushed into India through neighbouring countries. The issue has also been taken up consistently with the neighbouring countries in the bilateral fora.

Limit of operation of nationalised banks

1279. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operations of nationalized banks like State Bank of India (SBI) is limited to specific areas;

(b) if so, whether it encourages the function of private banks in other areas; and

(c) if not so, whether the allocation of student loan by SBI is limited to those who are living in Specific areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Bank of India extends student loan throughout the country without any restrictions.

Fall in foreign exchange reserve

1280. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian foreign exchange reserve fell considerably recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the factors responsible for fall in foreign exchange reserve; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to maintain reserves of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The Foreign Exchange Reserves comprising Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), Gold, Special Drawing Rights (SDR) and Reserve Tranche Position with IMF has increased from US$ 251.99 billion at the end of March 2009 to US$ 284.39 billion at the end of October 2009. This increased further to US$ 286.38 billion as on November 13, 2009. The details are given below.